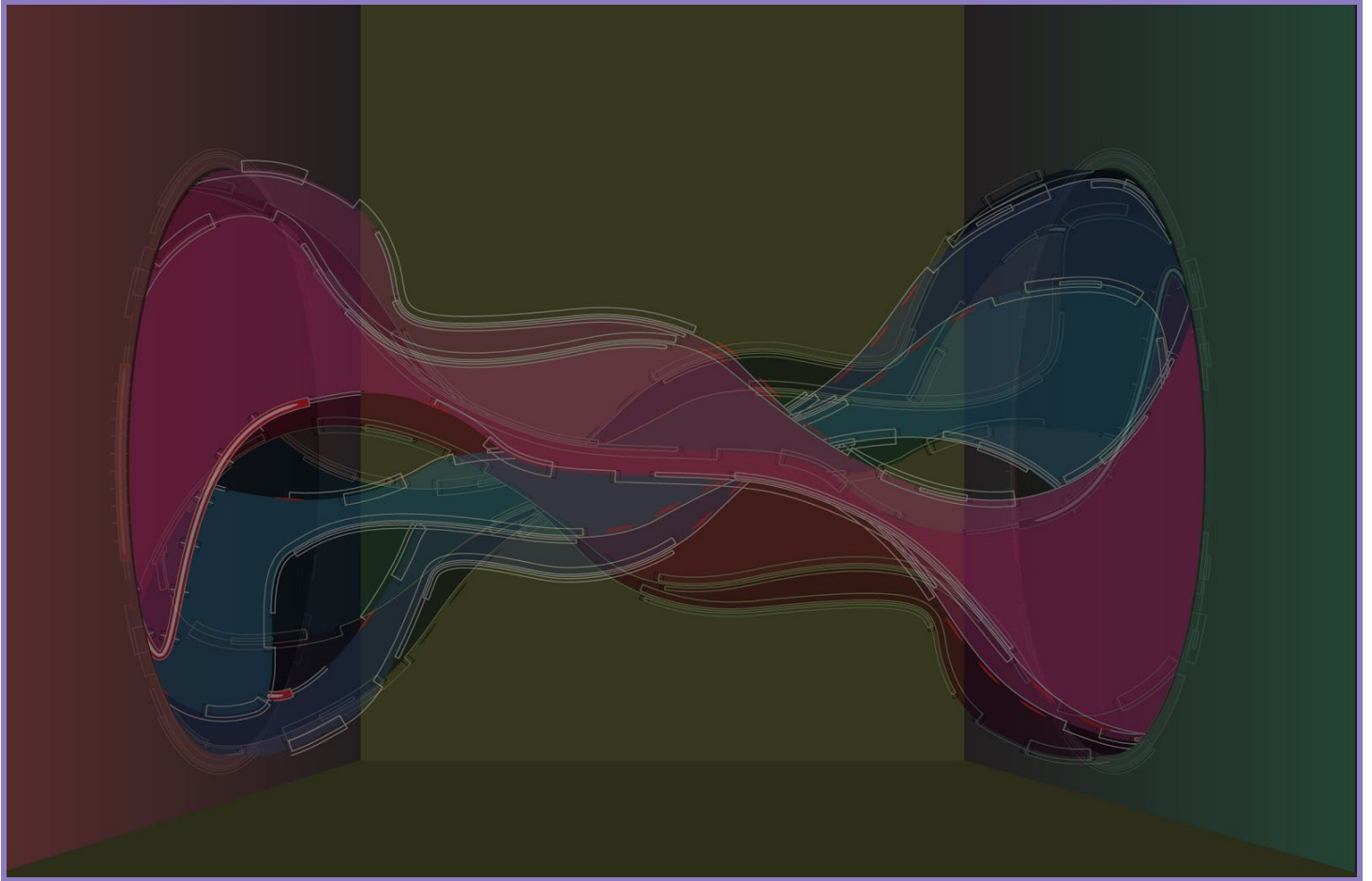


Co-Solipsism Manifesto

by Douglas McNellis



- Definitions:
 - **Art:** Art is understood in this manifesto as a tool to:
 - Express and/or communicate a personal experience or feeling. *What is the exact feeling I'm experiencing? Can I directly communicate this feeling to someone else?*
 - Understand the human experience. *Why do we do/feel this?*
 - Understand mankind's place in the cosmos. *What is humanity in the context of everything?*
 - Ask: "**What am I?**" "**What are we?**" "**What is all this?**" "**Why does anything exist at all?**"

"How strange it is to be anything at all."

In The Aeroplane Over The Sea :

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- Cultural and artistic (and other) **movements** are each a reaction to its predecessor: like a child growing as a reaction of his/her parents and nurture environment.
 - **Objective:** not influenced by personal feelings or opinions in considering and representing facts.
 - **Subjective:** based on or influenced by personal feelings, tastes, or opinions.
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• Solipsism: Emerging from Objectivity

- **Solipsism** is the view or theory that the self is all that can be known to exist.
- It is prominent today in philosophy, psychology, and...
- Physics! :
 - In the age of Newtonian physics (pre-Einstein), the universe was thought to be objectively measurable.
 - Albert Einstein's relativity revealed that experience, even scientific data, is subjective.
 - Special Relativity: things that happen can look different to people in different places or moving at different speeds – except for things involving the speed of light in a vacuum. Things moving at the speed of light always move at the speed of light compared to you, no matter how fast you're moving.
 - General relativity says that space and time are actually different aspects of the same thing--space-time--and that space-time is curved. Exactly how curved space-time is at any point in the universe depends on how much gravity there is in the area. In addition to bending space-time, gravity can also bend light, radio waves, and all kinds of other stuff.
 - Quantum physics then came along and showed us that we have little clue how strange the physical world is... it's like it's not even really that *physical*. Subatomic Particles behave differently when they are observed and they seem to blink in and out of existence while occasionally teleporting to a random spot.
- Solipsism itself is a reaction to its very clinical predecessors which believed that in the “new” medical sciences and technologies could precisely map the mind, thus unlocking all its secrets.
- That era of optimism rolled on. However, accurate predictions about human behavior could still not be made, and man felt no closer to any sort of “enlightenment.”
- Solipsism was introduced to explain why any one philosophy could never explain our existence.
- Solipsism: Why? and Why Not?
 - The beauty and horror of solipsism is that we can never know that all we experience isn't just in our mind and that others have no idea what we're experiencing. They might be figments of someone's imagination.
 - Solipsism means we're all alone and the weight of comprehending our place in the universe falls upon each of us. Each of us is handed a very complicated puzzle when we pop into the world and there's no point cheating: another person's puzzle is incomprehensible.
 - A solipsistic life: “I am this unknown fuzzy grey blob thing. A creature doomed into a life of gazing outward through two eyes. I cannot learn anything about the universe because there are no reference points. I will work on my own puzzle even though it is meaningless to the cosmos and to anyone else.”

● Co-Solipsism

- “Co-Solipsism” as a word does not make perfect sense as the prefix “co-” means together.
- As the movement’s name (Co-Solipsism or “Solipsism-Together”) suggests, we are all subjective observers but there are links between observers’ bubbles which can be seen as foundations common to mankind.
- Co-solipsism brings back some optimism.
- Co-solipsistic art seeks to find the deep dark common places shared between individual’s. These places are called **truths**. And, generally, cannot be expressed with any language’s vocabulary. Hence, art.
- A co-solipsistic life: “We are each born as this unknown fuzzy grey blob thing. A creature doomed into a life of gazing outward through two eyes. There are other outlookers. What are they experiencing?”
- **Analogy:** two people are each entirely covered in cardboard except for eyeholes. They cannot see themselves. They can only see the other’s eyes. How do they learn what they are?
 - They can either believe that the other person is so different that a peek under the other’s covering will not provide anything useful on their on path of discovery.
 - OR they can note the similarities and each peek beneath the other’s cover to get an idea about themselves
- **Traits of Co-Solipsistic Art:**
 - Co-solipsistic art pieces are attempts to find common truths.
 - A Co-solipsistic art piece is an attempt to understand mankind’s existence or to connect directly into another human’s experience via shared psychological building blocks and relatable subconscious landscapes.
 - No technical method or medium or process disqualifies an artwork from being considered co-solipsistic.
 - Traditions, in general, are discouraged.
 - Every concept brought in from outside distances the artist and the viewer from any significant truth.
 - Archetypes, however, can be effective. Archetypes are not specific to art - they are ancient themes that have perpetuated throughout eternity permeating many fields of study.
 - Carl Jung’s and Joseph Campbell’s archetypes can be found in co-solipsism.
 - A truth is only a truth if it can be extracted from a single person’s experience. BUT, this truth is considered pointless if no other soul can see or grasp it (in the same ways as the first soul).
 - The art could and should represent a **common area of human existence** or it could be an attempt to find these areas.
 - Surrealism can be a very useful tool.
 - Simple, abstract shapes are common in co-solipsism for their ambiguous yet powerful presence. They trigger fewer of the unwanted side-reactions that symbolic imagery does. Symbolism and realism produce clinical, sterile truths which are dictated impersonally to the viewer. They can be simply manipulated and juxtaposed to create a deeper truth.
 - The art could also be an experiment to reveal convergent or divergent reactions. A piece might induce a stew of personal reactions. Others can see this stew and, thus, join in the pot. A common

- experience is created and there is then more potential to find a truth.
- Every viewer's personal interpretation is a potential truth.

CO-SOLIPSISM's First Truth

TRUTH-MANTRA : ONE

I do believe you have a wound too.

I do believe it is both specific to you and common to everyone.

I do believe it is the thing about you that must be hidden and protected,

it is the thing that must be tap danced over five shows a day,

it is the thing that won't be interesting to other people if revealed.

It is the thing that makes you weak and pathetic.

It is the thing that truly, truly, truly makes loving you impossible.

It is your secret, even from yourself.

But it is the thing that wants to live.

-Charlie Kaufman

(read the mantra at times of excessive solipsism.)

Once this is known, beauty follows.